

A.D. 10.9, Inmate Marriages - Prepared for signature 5/28/98 - effective 8/3/98

1. Policy. The Department shall permit an inmate to marry when statutory prerequisites for marriage and Department conditions contained herein have been satisfied.
2. Authority and Reference.
 - A. Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 7-41a, 7-42, 7-45, 7-73, 18-81, 46b-20, 46b-21, 46b-24 through 46b-35 and 53a-190.
 - B. American Correctional Association, Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, Third Edition, January 1990, Standard 3-4380.
 - C. Administrative Directives 4.1, Offender Records and 9.8, Furloughs.
3. Request. An incarcerated inmate desiring to get married shall make a written request to the Unit Administrator. An inmate on community release shall notify the inmate's supervising officer at least one (1) month in advance of any request to marry. The request shall include the name of the proposed spouse and the proposed residence.
4. Conditions. Marriage of an incarcerated inmate shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - A. All requirements of law attendant to marriage shall be fulfilled including: (1) age of majority or parental consent; (2) blood test; and (3) dissolution of any prior marriage.
 - B. One (1) of the parties to the marriage shall not be an inmate.
 - C. Neither party is the subject of an undisposed criminal charge, the legal proceeding of which can be potentially impacted by the marriage.
 - D. All wedding expenses shall be borne by the inmate, except that any staff assistance as required by this Directive in the course of duty shall not be the responsibility of the inmate.
5. Restriction. Marriage between an inmate and a salaried or contractual Department employee shall be prohibited.
6. Staff Assistance. A counselor, a chaplain or other specified staff may provide assistance and counseling to the inmate and/or the intended spouse as well as assistance in making any arrangements to meet legal conditions as necessary.
7. Selection of Officiating Agent. The inmate shall arrange for a legally authorized member of the clergy, judge or justice of the peace to perform the wedding ceremony. A chaplain employed by the Department who is properly licensed to conduct marriages may conduct the marriage ceremony.
8. Wedding Ceremony. To preserve security and order the Unit Administrator may impose conditions, including scheduling, upon the circumstances of any wedding ceremony held within a facility. Attendees at a wedding ceremony may be limited and subject to the approval of the Unit Administrator. All persons participating in the ceremony and guests shall be subject to security clearance as determined by the Unit Administrator.

9. Documentation. The marriage shall be documented in the inmate's file. Any name changes shall be in accordance with Administrative Directive 4.1, Offender Records.
10. Furlough. Any inmate eligible under Administrative Directive 9.8, Furloughs, should be considered for a furlough to allow the marriage to take place in the community.
11. Exception. Any exception to the procedures in this Administrative Directive shall require prior written approval from the Commissioner.